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DATE: April 7, 2003

FAX RECEIVED

TO: **C.F. Dexter, Art Unit 3724**
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

FACSIMILE NO: 703-305-3590

RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 09/619,424 filed July 19, 2000,
THREE AXIS PORTIONING METHOD / Supplemental
Amendment and Response

OUR REFERENCE: DESS-1-14787

YOUR REFERENCE: 09/619,424 (confirmation No. 1856)

FROM: Jerald E. Nagae, Esq.

APR 08 2003

GROUP 3700

(Facsimile No. 206.224.0779)

MESSAGE: Please see the attached in response to the office communication of
March 19, 2003. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

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hjd

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K.S. Kim et al.

Attorney Docket No.: DESS114787

Application No.: 09/619,424

Group Art Unit: 3724

Filed: July 19, 2000

Examiner: C.F. Dexter

Title: THREE AXIS PORTIONING METHOD

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Seattle, Washington 98101

April 7, 2003

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

In supplemental response to the Office Action dated March 19, 2003, in the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning at page 12, line 34, has been amended to read as follows:

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In a preferred embodiment of the method of the present invention, a cutting step 108 will follow the comparison step 104 in FIGURE 1. As the foodstuff portion 200 travels on a conveyor system, the conveyor 202 will have brought the foodstuff portion to a cutting station 218 as shown in FIGURE 3. The cutting device 220 will be controlled by the computer 210 with the appropriate cutting path determined in an earlier step. Preferably, the cutting device in a method according to the present invention will use a band knife or an oscillating knife if the cut to be made is a long cut, but a high pressure water jet may also be used as well, to cut the foodstuff in accordance with the directions from the computer. Such cutting devices are described in U.S. Patent No. 5,931,178 to Pfarr, which is herein incorporated by reference. Bandsaws and blades are described in U.S. Patent No. 5,937,080 to Vogeley, Jr. et al., which is herein also incorporated by reference. However, other cutting devices, such as high pressure gas or lasers, that are well-known in the art may also be used.

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